

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 076733
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 INT-05 /022 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:EESVENDSEN:HMN
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-----070344Z 092161 /70
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076733

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: BMTN, BDIS, LI

SUBJECT:GOLD MINING IN LIBERIA

REF: MONROVIA 2099

1. AF/W HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY A MR. JOHN DRAIN, AN AMCIT AND FOUNDER OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN MINING CORP., REGARDING HIS ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN A GOLD MINING CONCESSION IN LIBERIA. ACCORDING TO DRAIN, HE HAS BEEN UNFAIRLY DEALT WITH IN TRYING TO CLAIM A CONCESSION FOR THE AREA BETWEEN ZWEDRU AND THE IVORY COAST BORDER ALSO SOUGHT BY EDGAR DETWEILER AND AZUZA MINING (REF), BUT UNLIKE HATKOFF OF AZUZA, DRAIN IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE COMPROMISE REACHED.

2. DRAIN CLAIMS THAT HE HAS BEEN "ROBBED" OF HIS CONCESSION AREA, AND THAT HE HAS THE DOCUMENTS TO PROVE IT. HE CLAIMS THAT DETWEILER ONLY OBTAINED THE CONCESSION THROUGH THE MACHINATIONS OF HIS LAWYER, A.B. TOLBERT.
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HE HAS ASKED THAT THE USG INTERVENE ON HIS BEHALF TO PROTECT HIS INTERESTS, SINCE HE FEELS THAT A FOREIGNER CANNOT OBTAIN JUSTICE IN LIBERIA. HE MADE SEVERAL UNREALISTIC PROPOSALS FOR USG ACTION TO SECURE GOL COMPLIANCE.

3. IN AWARDING DETWEILER'S LIBERIA GOLD AND DIAMOND CORP.

THE CONCESSION AREA, APPARENTLY A COMPROMISE WAS
REACHED WHEREBY DRAIN WAS OFFERED A JOB TO WORK AT THE
CONCESSION. THIS HE FINDS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. WE
SUGGESTED DRAIN DISCUSS HIS PROBLEMS WITH THE EMBASSY
UPON HIS RETURN TO MONROVIA. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED
TO ASSIST DRAIN AS APPROPRIATE.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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